Capacity to build nuclear weapon

†*35. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 more countries in the world have developed capacity to build nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, facts in this regard; and

(c) the list of such countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government has seen reports to this effect. Director General, International Atomic Energy (IAEA) has recently said that by some estimates thirty-five to forty countries around the world operate nuclear power plants and nuclear research reactors; many of them have access to fuel fabrication and reprocessing technologies. This does not, however, translate automatically into a nuclear weapons capability. Moreover, with the exception of eight states, other states have undertaken legal obligations not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons.

(c) There is no definitive list of such countries.

Committee on information about farmers

†*36. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Adarsh Mishra in March, 2006, to gather detailed information about the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Committee has found State Governments responsible for neglecting development of agriculture resulting in pitiable condition of farmers; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the details of the role of different State Governments in this regard along with the names of such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had constituted a Fact Finding Team under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Adarsh Mishra, the then Principal Adviser, Planning Commission, in March, 2006 to study the situation regarding disparities in regional development, to recommend necessary measures for reducing regional disparities in Maharashtra, and for addressing the issues of rural distress, especially in the Vidarbha region. The Team has submitted its report to the Government.

(c) and (d) The Fact Finding Team's Study was confined to Vidarbha region in Maharashtra, where it was found that inadequate irrigation facilities and weak extension system had aggravated farmers problems.

Employment during Eleventh Plan

†*37. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people targeted to be provided employment during the Eleventh Five Year Plan by Government;

(b) Government's plan to achieve the target and the number of people to be provided employment annually therefrom;

(c) whether Government would constitute any monitoring Committee/ mechanism therefor so that implementation of schemes is constantly monitored; and

(d) the number of persons provided employment annually during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Eleventh Five Year Plan period is 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2012. The Eleventh Five Year Plan is under preparation. The strategy to employment inter alia being debated in the

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